

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain in connection with the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 6-8 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended to place them in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 4 are now in a clearly allowable form, claims 6-8 have been maintained in dependent form.

Claim Amendments

Initially, it should be noted that many of the claims of the present application have been amended in an effort to broaden the claims and/or to clarify the claims. Thus, except for the amendments to be discussed hereafter, the claim amendments contained in the present amendment are deemed to be non-narrowing amendments, which have not been made for any reason relating to patentability.

Prior Art Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Document 6200453. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 4 of the present application have been amended to clarify distinctions over Japanese Patent Document 6200453. For example, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a fabric is formed while feeding to the knitting machine according to the specified finished state, wherein the specified finished state of the knitted fabric is based upon a feeling sample to be knitted. Claim 4 has further been amended to also clarify that the specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric is based on a feeling sample to be knitted. Support for these claim amendments can be found on at least page 19, lines 5-24 of the present specification, including Figure 3.

While Japanese Patent Publication 62000453 does appear to be directed to a method of controlling the tension in a flat knitting machine, the reference is

completely silent with regard to a "feeling sample." Further, for at least such a reason, Applicants believe that each of independent claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Japanese Patent Document 62000453. Thus, withdrawal of Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-8 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/amp